

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 7th, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Dave Lougee
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tegna, Inc.
8350 Broad Street
Suite 2000
Tysons, VA 22102

Mr. John Stankey
Chief Executive Officer
AT&T, Inc.
208 S. Akard St.
Suite 110
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Chairman Pai, Mr. Stankey, and Mr. Lougee:

I write to express concern about the ongoing carriage dispute between DirecTV/AT&T U-verse and Tegna. Last week, Ohioans across the state began experiencing local television station blackouts and are currently without access to WKYC, WBNS, and WTOL.

Without access to local broadcasting networks, my constituents are unable to consume local news, entertainment, weather updates, traffic patterns, and other essential information. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it is more important now than ever to ensure that local communities across the state have equitable and reliable access to the most up-to-date local health and safety recommendations via local broadcasts. Public interest would be best served if carriage is fully restored by the all parties involved as soon as possible.

I encourage all parties to continue good-faith negotiations and prioritize protecting Ohio consumers from experiencing continued blackouts or increased cable costs. I also ask that the Commission continue to monitor this situation closely and facilitate the resolution of the ongoing dispute promptly and impartially. We must hold companies accountable for any practices that disadvantage consumers. Thank you for your consideration, and please keep my office informed of any further action.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator